

# REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 12th November 1892.

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## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
Fortnightly.				
1	"Ahmadí" ... ..	Tangail, Mymensingh	600	30th October 1892.
2	"Bankura Darpan" ... ..	Bankura	.....	
3	"Grámvási" ... ..	Ramkristopur, Howrah	1,000	
4	"Kaliyuga" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	
5	"Kasipur Nivási" ... ..	Kasipur, Barisál	280	
6	"Navamihir" ... ..	Ghatail, Mymensingh	500	
7	"Sadar-o-Mufassal" ... ..	Tahirpur, Rajshahi	.....	
8	"Ulubaria Darpan" ... ..	Ulubaria	700	
Tri-monthly.				
9	"Hitakari" ... ..	Tangail Mymensingh	800	
Weekly.				
10	"Bangavási" ... ..	Calcutta	20,000	5th November 1892.
11	"Banganivási" ... ..	Ditto	8,000	
12	"Burdwán Sanjiváni" ... ..	Burdwan	335	1st ditto.
13	"Cháruvártá" ... ..	Sherpur, Mymensingh	400	31st October 1892.
14	"Dacca Prakásh" ... ..	Dacca	2,200	6th November 1892.
15	"Education Gazette" ... ..	Hooghly	825	4th ditto.
16	"Hindu Ranjiká" ... ..	Boalia, Rajshahi	212	2nd ditto.
17	"Hitavádi" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	3rd ditto.
18	"Murshidábád Pratinidhi" ... ..	Berhampore	.....	
19	"Navayuga" ... ..	Calcutta	500	
20	"Prakriti" ... ..	Ditto	.....	5th ditto.
21	"Pratikár" ... ..	Berhampore	609	
22	"Prithivi" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	
23	"Rangpur Dikprakásh" ... ..	Kakinia, Rangpur	.....	3rd ditto.
24	"Sahachar" ... ..	Calcutta	800-1,000	2nd ditto.
25	"Sahayogi" ... ..	Barisál	342	
26	"Sakti" ... ..	Dacca	.....	
27	"Samáj-o-Sáhitya" ... ..	Garibpore, Nadia	1,000	
28	"Samaya" ... ..	Calcutta	3,000	4th ditto.
29	"Sanjiváni" ... ..	Ditto	4,000	5th ditto.
30	"Sansodhini" ... ..	Chittagong	.....	
31	"Sáraswat Patra" ... ..	Dacca	300	
32	"Som Prakásh" ... ..	Calcutta	600	
33	"Srimanta Sadagar" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
34	"Sudhákár" ... ..	Ditto	3,100	4th ditto.
35	"Sulabh Samáchar" ... ..	Ditto	.....	
Daily.				
36	"Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká" ... ..	Calcutta	500	4th and 7th to 9th November 1892.
37	"Bengal Exchange Gazette" ... ..	Ditto	.....	4th, 8th and 10th ditto.
38	"Dainik-o-Samáchar Chandriká" ... ..	Ditto	1,000	6th to 9th November 1892.
39	"Samvád Prabhákar" ... ..	Ditto	1,500	4th, 5th, 7th and 9th November 1892.
40	"Samvád Purnachandrodaya" ... ..	Ditto	300	4th and 7th to 10th November 1892.
41	"Sulabh Dainik" ... ..	Ditto	.....	4th, 5th and 7th to 10th ditto.
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
Weekly.				
42	"Dacca Gazette" ... ..	Dacca	.....	
HINDI.				
Monthly.				
43	"Darjeeling Mission ke Másik Samáchar Patrika." ... ..	Darjeeling	60	
44	"Kshatriya Patriká" ... ..	Patna	250	
Weekly.				
45	"Aryávarta" ... ..	Calcutta	750	
46	"Bihar Bandhu" ... ..	Bankipore	500	3rd November 1892.
47	"Bhárat Mitra" ... ..	Calcutta	1,200	27th October 1892.
48	"Champaran Chandrika" ... ..	Bettiah	350	
49	"Desí Vyápári" ... ..	Calcutta	.....	
50	"Hindí Bangavási" ... ..	Ditto	.....	7th November 1892.
51	"Sár Sudhánidhi" ... ..	Ditto	500	
52	"Uchit Baktá" ... ..	Ditto	4,500	



No.	Names of newspapers.		Place of publication.		Reported number of subscribers.	Date of papers received and examined for the week.
URDU.						
Weekly.						
53	" Al Punch "	...	Bankipore	...	.....	24th and 31st October 1892.
54	" Anis "	...	Patna	...	.....	
55	" Calcutta Punch "	...	Calcutta	...	.....	4th November 1892.
56	" Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide "	...	Ditto	...	340	
57	" General and Gauhariasfi "	...	Ditto	...	.....	7th ditto.
58	" Mehre Monawar "	...	Muzaffarpur	...	.....	
59	" Raisul-Akhbari-Murshidabad "	...	Murshidabad	...	150	
60	" Setare Hind "	...	Arrah	...	.....	
61	" Shokh "	...	Monghyr	...	.....	
URIYA.						
Monthly.						
62	" Asha "	...	Cuttack	...	165	Jaistha, 1299 B.S.
63	" Echo "	...	Ditto	...	.....	
64	" Pradip "	...	Ditto	...	.....	
65	" Samyabadi "	...	Ditto	...	.....	
66	" Taraka and Subhavartá "	...	Ditto	...	.....	
67	" Utkalpravá "	...	Baripada	...	.....	
Weekly.						
68	" Dipaka "	...	Cuttack	...	.....	13th October 1892.
69	" Samvad Váhika "	...	Balasore	...	200	
70	" Uriya and Navasamvád "	...	Ditto	...	420	12th ditto.
71	" Utkal Dípiká "	...	Cuttack	...	420	15th ditto.
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.						
BENGALI.						
Fortnightly.						
72	" Paridarshak "	...	Sylhet	...	480	1st November 1892.
73	" Silchar "	...	Silchar	...	500	
Weekly.						
74	" Srihatta Mihir "	...	Sylhet	...	332	







## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Hindi Bangavási*, of the 7th November, says that it is difficult to make out the real intentions of the Amir of Cabul.

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
Nov. 7th, 1892.

The Amir.

From certain of his actions it would appear that he is a staunch ally of the British Government, while in other matters he acts in a manner which will conclusively prove him that Government's enemy.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

2. The *Burdwán Sanjivani*, of the 1st November, says that the severe remarks on the police of the Burdwan district made in the last administration report of the Burdwan

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
Nov. 1st, 1892.

The Burdwan police.

Division ought to bring the fussy boastful members of that police to their senses. The remarks, though bitter, are perfectly just.

3. The *Sanjivani*, of the 5th November, has read a letter issued by a Secret Society of whose existence the writer is not aware, and whose whereabouts he has not been able to make

SANJIVANI,  
Nov. 5th, 1892.

Terrible child's play.

out from the illegible post mark. The letter begins with these words:—"Shoot!—kill!—murder!—killing Sir Charles Elliott no crime!" The tone of the letter is of a very exciting nature throughout. After reciting all the wrong acts done by Sir Charles, the writer of the letter goes on to say—"And will you sit quiet, or dance attendance at garden parties organized by him? No—you can not. If you are men—decline his invitations—spurn them. Gird up your loins, and use dynamite and powder. This will do what a thousand memorials and Congresses can never do. Show by all possible means your devotion to Her Majesty's throne—but shoot the traitor Charles Elliott!" There can be no doubt that this is mere child's play, but it is child's play of a very dangerous sort. It is very likely that the writer of the letter has distributed his letter widely, in which case it will surely come to the hands of the police and get its writer into trouble. No one should play with fire.

## (b)—Working of the Courts.

4. The *Kasipur Nivási*, of the 30th October, has heard it stated that it has now become the practice of the courts in Barisal to fix the dates of hearing of adjourned cases not in the presence of the parties, but some time after-

KASIPUR NIVASI,  
Oct. 30th, 1892.

Postponements in the Barisal courts.

wards. This puts them to needless expense, and the inconvenience of staying in the town another day.

5. The *Burdwán Sanjivani*, of the 1st November, says that it had hoped that, with the progress Bengal was making, the jury system would be extended to every part of the province.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
Nov. 1st, 1892.

The curtailment of the jury system.

But that hope is dashed to the ground, for the jury system has been virtually abolished, even from those districts in which it has up to this time prevailed. By extending jury trial to offences against the marriage laws (chapter XX, Indian Penal Code), the shrewd Sir Charles Elliott wants to show that, if he has abolished it in certain offences, he has at the same time applied it to certain others which have not been up to this time triable by jury. The principal offences recognized by the Penal Code are those described in chapter XVI, whilst the number of cases tried in a year under chapter XX is very few. The natives have up to this time enjoyed the privilege of jury trial in cases under chapter XVI, and they have exercised their privilege satisfactorily. Are the Bengalis unfit to sit as jurors that they have been deprived of the right? Has the system been abolished because the Judges disagree in many cases with the jury? It is true juries commit occasional mistakes. But Judges are none the less liable to error. Assam and the other provinces have been left in possession of the jury system, but enlightened Bengal has been deprived of the right. When the people of Bengal are making rapid strides on the path of progress, Sir Charles Elliott has thrown them half a century backward with a single stroke of his pen. When the Bengalis are agitating for the introduction of the representative element in the Legislative Councils, Government has deprived them of a right which they



have exercised for the last 31 years. It is not known by what policy Government is now guided. Sir Charles Elliott has effected, by one stroke of his pen, what no Viceroy or Lieutenant-Governor has up to this time dared even to think of. Is it possible for the Government in any civilized country to deprive the people of an old right in this way? What is not possible in any other country, and under any other Government, is now found possible in Bengal, under the English Government. The people of the country should not sit idle. This question will, of course, be discussed in the next Congress. But it is a long time ere the next Congress comes on. Meetings should therefore be held at once in every part of Bengal to protest strongly against the curtailment of the jury system. Let also a petition be submitted to Parliament. It is a pity that a thing so disgraceful should be done under the Ministry of Mr. Gladstone.

HINDU RANJIKÁ,  
Nov. 2nd, 1892.

Jury trial in Bengal.

6. The *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 2nd November, has the following:—

The Lieutenant-Governor has assigned no reason for his recent orders abolishing jury trial in certain cases, and in the absence of any evidence showing that the jury system has proved a failure, those orders appear perfectly unreasonable and unintelligible. As a matter of fact, jury trial has yielded satisfactory results in this country, and representations have been made to Government publicly for the last 9 or 10 years for an extension of the system to those districts where it was not in force. But the Lieutenant-Governor does not acknowledge the force of reason and argument—and his will is law. A consideration of His Honour's public measures puts one in mind of the line in which Johnson gave a description of Wolsey:—"Law in his mouth and fortune in his hand." Since his accession to the Lieutenant-Governorship of these provinces, Sir Charles Elliott has attempted to strike a blow at the root of Self-Government and high English education, has virtually abolished jury trial, and has caused endless inconvenience to the people by ordering transfers of several Munsifs. And he is indifferent in regard to matters which are likely to benefit the country. It seems to be His Honour's conviction that every one who happens to be a defendant in a criminal case is a criminal, and he is, therefore, busy devising measures for the punishment of all who may be accused of any criminal offence. The Deputy Magistrate's life has become extremely burdensome, and the Deputy Magistrate who is not prepared to inflict heavy punishments on the accused has no chance of obtaining promotion under the present *régime*. There are few rulers so despotic as Sir Charles Elliott. Nothing can move him from his fixed purpose. Babu Ananda Chandra Roy of Dacca was charged with having given a bribe to a jurymen, but he was tried by a jury and acquitted by the High Court. But in His Honour's opinion Babu Ananda Chandra is still guilty, and he has been ever since that trial devising measures for the abolition of jury trial. He rebuked the Belati Babus of Manikgunge, who, though they had been acquitted by the court of the offences charged against them, were still, in His Honour's opinion, guilty, and he refused their offer of constructing some public works to commemorate his visit to that place, although he had not then read the papers of these cases. And this is justice and liberal-mindedness!

It is strange that the system of jury trial is now abolished in the most advanced districts of Bengal—the most advanced of all Indian provinces, and that no change has been made in the system in any other part of British India, not even in backward Assam, where the system is in force in more districts than in Bengal.

It is not possible that the Lieutenant-Governor has issued the present orders without the sanction of the Governor-General. What is to be regretted is that such orders should have been issued under Mr. Gladstone's administration. It is now the duty of the people of Bengal to make an agitation in England. Bengal has been thrown back a hundred years under Sir Charles Elliott's administration.

HITAVADI,  
Nov. 3rd, 1892.

The jury system.

7. The *Hitavadi*, of the 3rd November, has been astounded to see the notification in the *Calcutta Gazette* regarding jury trial, and makes the following remarks in that connection:—

The people of India have ever been proud of the system of administration of justice under British rule, the uprightness of which they have never had



occasion to question, though the high salaries of the judicial officers drain the country's life-blood dry, and the people have to suffer a thousand other evils under the British rule. But jury trial has been the very corner-stone of this admirable system of administration of justice. Whatever the guilt of an accused person, he will not be considered guilty, if a Judge sitting with a jury does not find him guilty. The police may commit any oppression they like, their misconduct cannot elude the sharp scrutinizing eye of a native jury. But the Lieutenant-Governor has now put an end to this excellent system by one stroke of his pen, thereby removing the one barrier that existed between the high-handed police and the people. Why this thunderbolt from a cloudless sky? It is true the sovereign is not bound to give his subjects his reason for everything that he does. But the Indians, though placed under a foreign rule, have yet felt it their glory to be the subjects of a people like the English, who are so fond of freedom, and have prided themselves on the fact that they enjoy a system of judicial administration not different from that which obtains in England itself. And this action of the Lieutenant-Governor in regard to jury trial has taken away from the Indian people this glory and this pride of theirs. One stroke of Sir Charles Elliott's pen is making the Indian people feel that this pride and this glory of theirs is not worth more than the mere pleasure of their ruler. But who does not know this? If the English rulers were this very moment to call upon their Indian subjects to drown themselves in the waters of the Bay of Bengal, would the latter have any alternative but to obey the command at once? And better such an end than a painful death by inches. But no—who will then pay taxes to the Sovereign?—Who will *huzoor* beardless English boys sitting as Indian judges?—Who will bow their heads before red feet wearing English boots?—And who, prince or peasant, will *Salam* Englishmen with joined hands?

The writer fails to make out any reason for the abolition of the jury system. The jurors were men best able to sift evidence and to detect police tampering. The judge could not, it is true, alter the verdict of the jury, but he had every right to disagree with their verdict and make references to the High Court. And this was a sufficient safeguard against injustice arising from jury trial. Why then has this barrier between the high-handed police and the people been suddenly removed?

It is said that the discharge of a large number of persons sent up by the police in connection with the Shambazar riot case has prejudiced the Lieutenant-Governor against jury trial. But the writer will ask Sir Charles Elliott if his long sojourn among a subject people has made him forget all the glory of his native land. Is it not a maxim of the English law that it is better that a hundred criminals should escape punishment than that a single innocent person should be convicted? Everybody knows that, in the Shambazar case, the police sent up for trial every poor Muhammadan whom it met with, no matter whether he had anything to do with the riot or not, and should the jurors who sat at the hearing of the case be blamed for acquitting many of those who were thus sent up? It is also to be noted that the Judge who tried that case agreed with the jury in their verdict.

The jury system was introduced into Bengal 30 years ago. And since its establishment, Bengal has been ruled by a large number of very learned and able Civilian Governors, who had spent their whole lives in this province. But none of them could find the least flaw in the working of the system. It is a system with which Governors like Beadon and Eden were able to find no fault, but it has been swept off by one word from Sir Charles Elliott—a man new in the province, and possessing little or no knowledge of it. A severe blow has thus been struck at that impartial and admirable judicial system which had hitherto formed the very foundation of the British empire in India.

8. The *Samay*, of the 4th November, has the following:—

SAMAY,  
Nov. 4th, 1892.

Curtailement of the jury system. Did Sir Charles Elliott ascend the throne of Bengal only to injure the people? Under his administration all our rights are about to be abolished one after another. Sir Charles Elliott has spent the best part of his life in the North-Western Provinces. He does not yet possess a full knowledge of Bengal. His despotism met with no protest in the North-Western Provinces, where the



people are ignorant. But such despotism will not do in Bengal, the people of which know their own rights. His despotism will be strongly protested against in Bengal, and if no redress is obtained here, an appeal will be carried to England.

The National Congress is demanding an extension of the jury system. But the very reverse of extension has now taken place. The Congress did not even dream that, by way of reply to their demand, jury trial would be practically abolished in Bengal.

Petty instead of grave offences will be henceforward tried by jury. The Lieutenant-Governor's notification on the subject gives no reason for the curtailment of the jury system. But no Sessions Judge has ever been known to complain against that system.

It is said that the Viceroy and the High Court Judges, with three exceptions, have approved of the curtailment of the jury system. We have always said that the administrative policy of the present Viceroy is extremely unsound. He is ruler only in name—his Councillors being the real rulers. This is why the present mischief has happened. It is a mystery how Sir Charles Elliott has been able to induce the majority of the High Court Judges to approve of the curtailment of the jury system. It is strange that, though Judges, they could not realize the beneficial character of the jury system. The present Chief Justice, though a very worthy man in other respects, has shown weakness in this matter.

Realizing fully, as they did, the value of the jury system, the Europeans prayed at the time of the Ilbert Bill agitation that they might be tried only by a jury composed of their own countrymen. The Government in fear granted them the increased privilege. But, unfortunately for the Bengalis, it has curtailed even the limited form of jury trial they possessed. The Bengalis will henceforward possess no control over their trial in cases in which life and death may be concerned. Control in such cases will be exercised by despotic civilians like the Lieutenant-Governor. Trial by jury is a glory of British rule. But, though British subjects, we have been deprived of that privilege.

There was lately a rumour that Sir Charles Elliott would retire. If, instead of doing such scandalous things again and again, Sir Charles goes away, it would be well both for himself and for us. He has had to eat those words of his own in his minute on the Income-tax which gave such offence to the European merchants. The cadastral survey in Bihar, the Chaukidari Act, and the enhancement of the powers of the Magistracy and the police are some of the oppressive measures of his administration. It is desirable that Sir Charles Elliott should now return home, and thereby spare himself the reproaches that are being showered upon him from all sides, and save us from his iron rule.

Instead of being discouraged by this act of the Lieutenant-Governor, the people should carry their appeal to the British Parliament and the British public.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,  
Nov. 4th, 1892.

9. The *Education Gazette*, of the 4th November, says that, it is found from statistics compiled from the Bengal Administration Reports that the Judge and the jury agreed in 2,044 out of the 2,537 cases tried by jury from 1883 to 1890, and that only 125 of these cases were referred to the High Court—the result of the reference being that in 37 cases the verdict of the jury was upheld, in 3 amended, and in 67 set aside. As for the remaining 8 cases, they were sent back for re-trial. It is not easy to see why Sir Charles Elliott has, under these circumstances, modified the jury system. The notification in the *Calcutta Gazette* assigns no reason whatever for the modification.

The jury system is not new in this country. Under the Hindu kings, judges decided cases with the help of 7, or 5, or at least 3 men belonging to the Brahman caste, or, in default thereof, to the Kshatriya, or Sudra caste. That was a system not essentially different from the present jury system. It cannot therefore be contended that the jury system is unknown to the people of this country, and is therefore unsuited to them.

Government at first made the verdict of jury final as in England, and the present law, authorizing references to the High Court against the verdicts of juries, was only introduced at the suggestion of Sir Fitz James Stephen.



It is necessary to the satisfactory administration of a country that there should be proper limits to the powers of its Government. In India the people are not powerful enough to impose such limits, and, if there is to be a limit to the power of the Government here, that limit should be set by the Government itself. It was with the object of setting such a limit to its power over the law courts that the civilized English Government introduced the jury system. The present Lieutenant-Governor has slightly diminished the power of the people by passing the Chaukidari Act, and he has now interfered with the jury system. There cannot be much credit in reducing the power of the people of a country like this. It is real credit to make a weak people strong. It is in the interest of a satisfactory administration of justice that the Lieutenant-Governor has modified the jury system. But His Honour has not considered that to strengthen the weak people of this country is to perform a true duty of the ruling power.

10. The *Prakriti*, of the 5th November, has the following :—

The curtailment of the jury system.

It is deep sorrow that wrings from us this day reproaches against the Government. The veriest wretch cannot deny that the Indians are the most loyal people on earth. And the very fact that we, Indians, find ourselves compelled to blame the Government ought to be regarded as a proof that Government's oppression has exceeded just limits.

It is hardly necessary to say that Sir Charles Elliott has given proof of great narrowness of mind by laying the axe at the root of the jury system. That the English Government, which is initiating the people of this country into the art of Self-Government, and boasts before the world that it is civilizing India, should lay the axe at one of the branches of the tree of Self-Government is an event which is its shame and its reproach.

That the jury system existed in ancient India can be established by evidence if necessary.

We are alarmed to see that jury trial has been abolished in those most serious cases in which the slightest irregularity in trial may lead to people's ruin. It is hoped that either the Viceroy or the Secretary of State will look to this matter. This curtailment of the jury system will be an indelible stain on the reputation of Sir Charles Elliott.

11. A correspondent of the same paper says that the Mufassal Benches of Honorary Magistrates are not at present composed

The Honorary Magistracy.

of lawyers as before. It is, therefore, men not possessing any knowledge of the law who now sit as Honorary Magistrates; and as Bengalis are not in the habit of learning anything new after leaving school or college, or for discharging any new function that they are called on to perform, these Honorary Magistrates remain ignorant of the law to the end of the chapter.

Government requires high qualifications for all judicial offices. One must have passed the B.L. Examination to become a Munsif. Candidates for Deputy Magistracies are also subjected to a severe test. How is it then that no qualifications are required of Honorary Magistrates? Is the administration of criminal justice so very easy a thing?

It is desirable to subject candidates for Honorary Magistracies to an examination, and to have at least one lawyer on every Honorary Bench.

It may be replied that no one will agree to undergo a test for obtaining a post which brings no remuneration. But one neither should be made an Honorary Magistrate who will consider his work as *begar*. If Honorary Magistrates regard their work as *begar*, the opponents of Self-Government will be justified in saying that natives have not yet become fit for Self-Government.

Without prescribing a regular examination, Government may compose each Honorary Bench of Magistrates of one lawyer and two unprofessional men, and may rule that no Honorary Magistrate shall receive 2nd class powers who has not passed an examination in the Penal Code and the Evidence Act. Magistrates should also be required to converse with Honorary Magistrates now and then on points of law, and to remove such of them from the Bench as may be found by him utterly ignorant of the law. If this is done, his regard for his reputation will compel every Honorary Magistrate to study law.

PRAKRITI,  
Nov. 5th, 1892.

PRAKRITI.



SANJIVANI,  
Nov. 5th, 1892.

12. The *Sanjivani*, of the 5th November, has the following :—

It is impossible to describe the terrible nature of the notification that has been published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 2nd November last. When the people are anxious to

The jury system. see the jury system extended throughout the country, and the National Congress is submitting petitions to Government, year after year, for extending its scope, the system has been silently abolished, even in the seven districts of Bengal where it has been in force. The sleeping Bengali has not yet fully realized the nature of the calamity that has befallen him, or the extent to which the cause of an impartial administration of justice has been imperilled. What an inauspicious moment was that when Sir Charles Elliott ascended the *musnud* of Bengal! His Honour's very ability is proving the ruin of his subjects, for they are going to be slowly deprived by His Honour of all their powers and privileges, and of their independence.

The life and death, the conviction and acquittal, of many accused persons will henceforward depend on the favour of the Judges. Accused persons will henceforward entertain little hope of being acquitted. Accused persons will henceforward have the jail, the gallows, and the Andamans always before their eyes. If a man be accused of any serious offence, either through the machinations of an enemy or of a village faction, or through the ill-will of a daroga, he will henceforward know no escape, even if he be defended by the ablest pleaders and Counsel. The little hope of protection that accused persons have hitherto had in the face of the strong desire for conviction that actuates the Deputy Magistrates, and at the hands of the Sessions Judges, is at last gone. The Lieutenant-Governor is anxious to see accused persons heavily punished. His Honour probably thinks that a country is well governed when its jails are full of prisoners. And His Honour is devising all sorts of means to give effect to that idea. Court Sub-Inspectors are being trained to conduct cases in the Magistrates' courts, and Government pleaders in the higher courts are now generally found to support convictions. The only hope that accused persons had that they would receive justice was trial by jury. And this pest of a jury trial has been removed by the authorities with a view of being able to fill the prisons. Miscarriage of justice often takes place in the Courts of the Deputy Magistrates, Magistrates, and even Sessions Judges. It cannot indeed be otherwise, when judicial officers consider their only claim to promotion in the service, and to the favour of their superiors, to lie in the number of their convictions. The writer does not mean that every accused person ought to be acquitted; but he is not prepared to pronounce every man guilty who is sent up by the police for trial.

It is the excellence of the jury system which has led the National Congress and the Provincial Conferences during the last few years to agitate for and demand its extension. But woe to the country in which public opinion possesses no weight! For it is, as it were, with a view of showing his disregard for public opinion and humiliating the National Congress that the Lieutenant-Governor has robbed the people of this invaluable privilege. Ye Bengalis—have you really become so worthless, indolent, and lifeless, that even this theft—this disgrace—must fail to rouse you from your sleep? Open your eyes once and see that all your privileges, all your liberties, are going to be destroyed under Sir Charles Elliott, one after another. Cowards though you be, show that there is manliness yet in you, and make a strong protest against Sir Charles Elliott's policy of destruction, or you will have no right to be considered better than the worthless beasts, that Sir Charles Elliott must have taken you to be when he robbed you of your independence.

It is true that failure of justice has taken place even in jury trials, but instances of such failure are very few. And it is no wonder that jurors, generally very ordinary men, should now and then come to wrong verdicts, when Judges learned in the law are themselves liable to err. Can Sir Charles himself say that he has not committed a single error in the administration of this province since he became its Governor? Has he then acted rightly in abolishing the jury system for the few failures of justice that have taken place under it? People are saying that the Shambazar riot case and the Dacca bribery case have wrought for the people their present mischief. But as in the Shambazar case, so in the bribery case, the Judge



agreed with the jury, and there was, therefore, no ground for dissatisfaction with the result of the two trials. And if, under these circumstances, the jury could be found fault with, why not the Judges too? And if the two trials could be regarded as reason for abolishing the jury system, why should not they be regarded as an equally good reason for abolishing the Judgeships too? But no, the Judges must not go, for they are the Lieutenant-Governor's own countrymen—jurors may go, for they are mostly natives of India. The fact is, no one who was not determined to find fault with the jury system would have abolished it on the ground of these two trials. And, supposing that there was failure of justice in these two cases, why has the Lieutenant-Governor abolished the system in districts in which the failure in question did not occur?

A bare reference to the sections of the Penal Code describing the offences in which jury trial has been abolished, and to the sections describing the offences in which it has been retained, will convince anybody of the nature of the calamity which has befallen the country. Grave offences like murder, dacoity, and forgery will be tried by the Judge unassisted by a jury, and unimportant offences alone will be tried with the help of a jury. The Lieutenant-Governor has stolen from us our gold, and gives us glass in return. Everybody will now see the sort of friend the people of Bengal have got in Sir Charles Elliott.

The notification relating to jury trial was issued in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 2nd November last, but nothing has yet been heard against it from any of the districts. Everybody is silent! O Bengalis!—will you suffer this wrong in silence and without a protest? Will you not once wake from your sleep? Your rejoicing at the return of the Liberal Party to power knew no bounds. Will you not see whether your Gladstone, Ripon, Caine, Dadabhai can do anything for you now?

Do you hold large public meetings in every village and in every town to protest against the high-handedness, injustice, and lawlessness of the Administration in abolishing the jury system. Set on foot an agitation that will spread through the length and breadth of the country! Let the newspapers go on protesting—let the Congress too protest. Ask the help of friends in England! Point out to the British public the illiberal and destructive character of Sir Charles Elliott's administration. What should you be called if you were to suffer this injury in silence? You should be considered really unworthy of the privilege of trial by jury.

13. The *Bangavasi*, of the 5th November, has an article headed "A thunderbolt on the jury system," in which the following remarks are made:—

The jury system.

When a serious event occurs, and occurs silently and in a noiseless manner, men become as a rule astounded and horrified, few being able on such occasions to keep themselves cool and composed. But it is not wise to lose the head even when a thunder-bolt is hurled without previous warning.

The system of trial by jury—introduced 30 years ago by the British Government itself—has now been done away with by a short notification! Under the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code, the Provincial Governments possess the power of introducing, extending, or curtailing the jury system; and Sir Charles Elliott could have, if he had been so minded, earned a great name for himself by extending the jury system to those districts of Bengal to which it had not been extended. But Sir Charles has preferred to think otherwise, and found it proper to knock the jury system on the head even in the districts in which it has been in force for the last 30 years. The work of destruction has been done in a silent and summary manner, in which even the usual outward forms have not been observed.

Sir Charles Elliott's order has pierced the hearts of his Bengali and Bihari subjects like a fiery arrow. Some are crying "we are undone," others are asking "how has this come to pass?" Some people have been astounded at the turn affairs have taken, others have been filled with forebodings for the future. People are viewing Government's action in various lights. Most people are crying at the top of their voice—"There will henceforth be no limit to oppression, and what is in every respect the severest system of administration has

BANGAVASI,  
Nov. 5th, 1892.



been naugurated." The writer himself is a fatalist, and would advise people to submit without uttering a word of protest to whatever fate has in store for them; for fate is not to be foiled or averted by the bravest man, whilst bravery, for the matter of that, cannot be among people trodden under the feet of foreign rulers. In a despotic Government the authorities never listen to the advice of their subjects, nor is protest possible. The only thing the subject-people is permitted to do is to cry, to agitate, and to petition, and it is to be hoped that Sir Charles Elliott will not throw obstacles in the way of their crying, agitating, and petitioning. A safety-valve should always be provided for the free passage of unwholesome humours generated in men's minds.

An attempt has been made in the notification to play a political trick upon the people. The Sovereign is at liberty to withdraw all the favours he has conferred upon his subjects, and in this instance the ruler of Bengal has done precisely that, though not in so many words. He has been pleased to take away the best part of his favour, leaving little and conferring something new but slight. The people see on the whole that they have been deprived of the best part of their privilege. Some people say that, by making some offences triable by jury which were hitherto not so triable, Sir Charles has shown great shrewdness. But the writer does not think so. That is not shrewdness which is seen through by the most stupid.

The Liberals now hold the Ministry in England—Dadabhai Naoroji has been elected Member of Parliament—the Legislative Councils are going to be reconstituted on democratic principles—and the Bengal Congressists of holy fame are ready with their ship for a voyage to England that will be their victory. It is, in fact, progress *in excelsis* everywhere and in all matters, when, lo, by one stroke, a privilege of 30 years' standing is thrown down. People say that the Dacca bribery case and the Shambazar riot case have been the cause of the abolition, of the jury system. The writer will pass no opinion as to the reason of the abolition. All that he will say is that fate had decreed the abolition, and the people of India must submit to their fate. But he will ask Sir Charles Elliott, why has His Honour acquired this infamy for himself? Many rulers sat upon the Bengal *musund* before Sir Charles, but all of them tolerated the jury system, and why should not Sir Charles tolerate it? His Honour has not done well in curtailing the jury system. Even if urged to the measure by the Supreme Government, His Honour should have refused to add this infamy to his name.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR,  
CHANDRIKA,  
Nov. 6th, 1892

14. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 6th November, after quoting authorities to show that the jury system existed in India in the Hindu and Mussulman

periods, goes on to write as follows:—

Under the British rule it is foreigners who administer justice, and it is foreign laws that are supreme in the land. Every experienced and far-seeing man will under these circumstances see that the absence of the jury system will be a cause of serious mischief in this country.

In the Hindu period the king's advisers were jurors, and the members of the village panchayet did jurors' work. During the Mussulman period, too, the members of the panchayet did the work of jurors. The jury system has, in fact, prevailed in this country from time immemorial. It was the English rulers who tampered with the panchayet system and abolished the jury system, and then, in 1862, introduced the English jury system. This new system has been working smoothly for the last 30 years. And now, under Sir Charles Elliott's retrograde policy, this system, too, has been abolished at one stroke of the pen, without agitation, without discussion, and without recourse to legislation. The Czar of Russia himself dares not to act in a manner so despotic.

That the Badshah of Bengal has ventured to interfere with the jury system is because, thanks to the Criminal Procedure Code, his interference with it will not affect the Europeans in India. Could the heroic Sir Charles have given proof of similar courage if the interests of Anglo-Indians had been affected by his action? During the Ilbert Bill controversy the Anglo-Indians shook India to its foundations in the belief that their privileges were threatened. Sir Rivers Thompson, then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, joined the opponents of the Bill, and girded up his loins to fight Lord Ripon out of his measure. Lord Ripon was defeated, and the Bill had to be



withdrawn. And Sir Charles Elliott could not have shown the boldness he has displayed if Anglo-Indian interests had been in the slightest degree affected by his action. The present rulers of this country seem to regard its people not as human beings, whose opinions or protests are of any value, but as something worse even than beasts and worms. Sir Charles Elliott could not otherwise have abolished the jury system by a single notification in the *Calcutta Gazette*. Sir Charles has, no doubt, shown great courage by abolishing a system which has been India's heirloom from the Hindu and Mussulman periods, and which has prevailed uncontested for 30 years ever under English rule. But he has been able to show such courage because he has had to deal with natives of India and, of all natives of India, with the natives of Bengal! Heroic Sir Charles would have shown greater timidity than that of the hare if he had to deal with any Anglo-Indian interest.

The writer knows very well that this oppression has been committed upon the people of Bengal because there is no one to sympathise with them, or to listen to their protests. And will the Congressists take no note of this, and lower their heaven-reaching aspirations accordingly? Whilst they are clamouring for an extension of the jury system—behold, the small measure of it that was given to them has been taken back! Will they still boast of their Congress and their Provincial Conferences?

The curtailment of the jury system.

15. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 7th November, has the following:—

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA.  
Nov. 7th, 1892.

We have shown by quotations from competent authorities like Sir John Malcolm that even the most tyrannical Mussalman and Mahratta rulers never interfered with the right of jury trial possessed by the village communities. But the English ruler of Bengal has now dealt a heavy blow to the jury system in vogue in the sessions courts. Let the reader imagine what Sir John Malcolm would have said if he had been now living.

Hostility to the jury system has not been unknown in England. But, with time, the majority of the English people have come to believe that that system is, on the whole, productive of more good than evil.

Now that jury trial has been abolished in serious cases like those of murder and in cases in which the officials are interested, in cases, that is, in which there is the greatest likelihood of injustice being done, namely, cases of riot and unlawful assembly, the jury system might as well not exist at all.

Sir Charles Elliott has certainly the power to imagine what the result of an act like his curtailment of the jury system would have been in England. But he knows that he is in India to domineer as a *Nawab*, and he has therefore dared to deprive the people of Bengal, with one stroke of his pen, of a right which is the natural and legitimate right of all men.

Jury trial.

16. The *Sulabh Dainik*, of the 8th November, has the following:—

SULABH DAINIK,  
Nov. 8th, 1892.

The name of Sir Charles Elliott has begun to fill men's minds with fear. That was an inauspicious moment when Bengal received as her ruler a man whose stern rule has made all men uneasy, and the poison of whose short-sighted and inconsiderate policy has thrown all his subjects, as it were, into a fever of anguish. There is no knowing what further humiliation awaits the Bengalis at the hands of Sir Charles Elliott. O Your Honour!—it is not statesmanship to oppress meek and gentle subjects. The infamy with which you have covered yourself by working the utter ruin of your meek and gentle subjects will not be washed by the waters of a thousand Atlantic Oceans of yours. The pages of the history of Bengal will be ever bright with accounts of your cleverness—your achievements—your system of administration—your far-sightedness, and your impartiality! The very birds and beasts of Bengal will ever sing your praise. You are holy beyond compare—and that is why you have been able to do what previous Lieutenants-Governors were unable to do. Praised be you and praised be your sports and exploits in Bengal!

O you schoolboys, you proposed to give an entertainment to the Lieutenant-Governor, and thus to erect a trophy for yourselves in heaven. You did not perhaps so long find an opportunity for carrying out your idea. But consider the universal satisfaction that the Lieutenant-Governor has now given,



and it is certain that you will get no opportunity if you do not invite him to your entertainment at once. And you—O Municipal Commissioners, Calcutta, who once entertained Sir Charles Elliott at a river party—why are you doing nothing *now*? You ought to make the very best use of municipal money by getting up some entertainment at once in honour of Sir Charles. You are master-hands at everything; do you please yourselves by singing Sir Charles's praise for this action of his.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
Nov. 9th, 1892.

The curtailment of the jury system.

17. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 9th November, has the following:—

Among even the Czar's dominions, Poland and the newly-acquired Caucasian country are the only provinces that do not enjoy the right of jury trial. The Lieutenant-Governor has now placed Bengal in the position of Poland, and the other provinces of India, too, will in all probability be placed in the same position. But it is difficult to understand why India and Poland should be placed in the same position, when the two countries do not resemble each other on any conceivable point or points. Poland has been unjustly acquired by Russia, but India has not been acquired by England in that way. Poland is the chief seat of that Nihilism, which is an eternal thorn in the side of the Czar, and Poland is determined to recover its ancient freedom; but India is devotedly loyal to the British Government, and is a perfect stranger to Nihilism, conspiracy, dynamite, and all ideas of rebellion.

Why then place India in the position of Poland? Russia's rigorous rule in Poland has produced an effect the very opposite of what had been expected. The greater the rigour of Russia in Poland, the more turbulent the Pole. Ought the English Government to repeat the mistake of the Czar? It is by its liberal administration that the English Government has made India loyal and law-abiding. Why depart from this admirable policy after so long?

It is our misfortune that our rulers have been of late years giving up the old policy for one that is vicious. Will God never give good sense to Sir Charles Elliott and his master Lord Lansdowne? Have those essentially British virtues—justice, liberality, foresight—deserted the race for ever?

We fear nothing for ourselves. We can bear everything in silence, because we are believers in fate. What we fear is lest the actions of the Indian authorities should tarnish the fair fame of the English people, and lest Europe and America should seat the British lion on the same seat with the Russian bear.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA.

18. The same paper says that one Srimanta Mandal and his father went

Working of the jury notification.

to the orchard of Ramhari Mandal to pluck fruits, and that Ramhari having happened to come in at that time, an affray ensued in which he was killed.

The Sessions Judge of Alipore, who tried Srimanta with the help of assessors according to the late notification of the Lieutenant-Governor, has convicted Srimanta of murder and sentenced him to transportation for life. Homicide in an affray is not always recognised as murder, and if Srimanta had been tried by a jury, he would not probably have been convicted of murder and sentenced to transportation for life. The decision in question, therefore, forms a striking commentary on the recent modification of the jury system. It is the object of the Lieutenant-Governor to have people more heavily punished. Srimanta should appeal to the High Court, for the quashing of the sentence of the Sessions Judge in his case may help in the repeal of the Lieutenant-Governor's order.

SULABH DAINIK,  
Nov. 9th, 1892.

The jury system.

19. The *Sulabh Dainik*, of the 9th November, writes as follows:—

The Lieutenant-Governor has abolished the jury system; what shall we say to it? Let him treat us, his weak Bengali subjects, as he likes, and we will brook it. But we will not be able to call Sir Charles Elliott an impartial ruler when he has abolished the jury system for the natives and retained it for his own countrymen. Why should not a Judge, unaided by a jury, be able to try a European prisoner if he can try a native prisoner without such aid? Cannot Sir Charles Elliott rely on the infallibility of the Judge trying a European prisoner when he can do so when the Judge is trying a native? What has the native done for which the Lieutenant-Governor bears him such private malice? And why is His Honour so hard upon the native?



Indeed, the partiality and short-sightedness of Sir Charles's administration will rob it of all its reputation, and make his name a by-word in the history of Bengal.

The *Indian Daily News* and the *Statesman* are both condemning the measure, but the *Englishman*, is praising it. But who does not know the *Englishman's* enmity to the natives, and how narrow-minded it is? That Sir Charles Elliott has formed an intimacy with such a paper as the *Englishman* shows the sort of man he is.

(d)—Education.

20. A correspondent of the *Sudhakar*, of the 4th November, complains of unfairness to the Mussulman community in the appointment of an inspecting pundit in the Noakhali district.

SUDHAKAR,  
Nov. 4th, 1892.

21. The *Sanjivani*, of the 5th November, writes as follows:—

SANJIVANI,  
Nov. 5th, 1892.

The Lieutenant-Governor is incessantly running about like a race-horse, without considering whether such running is right or wrong. In one leap His Honour came down from the heights of Darjeeling to Calcutta, and in another leap His Honour has gone to the summit of the Parisnath hill, and the next day he is running at break neck speed through wood and jungle, knowing no rest, never halting to reflect doing incessant horse-racing. And His Honour is anxious that his subordinate officers should do as he is doing. Babu Bhagwan Prasad, Deputy Inspector of Schools, Patna Circle, who visited 514 schools within 248 days in the course of the last year, has been praised by the Lieutenant-Governor, who seems to consider him a model Deputy Inspector. And the Deputy Inspectors of Hooghly, Howrah, Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, and Faridpur have been rebuked for having spent only 150 days on tour. The Lieutenant-Governor is also very much pleased with the Sub-Inspector of Ranaghat, who visited 447 schools within 262 days. His Honour seems to have no appreciation of worth, with him the quickest runner is the best and most efficient worker. He never stops to see the quality of the work a man does, but only looks to its quantity, and praises or rebukes as the quantity is large or small. Tours are, no doubt, good things in their way, but tours made with Sir Charles's haste can do no more good, than the inspection of 514 schools in 248 days. Babu Dina Nath Sen, Inspector of Schools, Dacca Circle, has incurred the Lieutenant-Governor's displeasure for not visiting distant parts of his jurisdiction, with the exception of Chittagong.

22. The same paper says that the Lieutenant-Governor was anxious to abolish the zilla schools as speedily as possible, but the pension question in regard to the teachers of the schools which will be abolished is an obstacle in the way of a rapid fulfilment of Sir Charles Elliott's intention. His Honour, however, proposes to meet this difficulty by abolishing pensions for such teachers. But the writer fails to see why teachers alone should be denied pensions. A teacher in Government employ is as much a servant of Government as a civilian, and has the same right to pension as the latter. The Lieutenant-Governor's meanness is such as to excite hatred.

SANJIVANI.

23. A correspondent of the *Prakriti*, of the 5th November, complains that the Secretary of the Ilchhaba-Mandalai English School, in the Hooghly district, acts according to his own sweet will and pleasure. He employs inefficient teachers and has done much harm to the school in every respect. Full particulars of the management will involve the disclosure of many scandalous things.

PRAKRITI,  
Nov. 5th, 1892.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

24. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 1st November, says that, the fact that only one man stood this year as candidate for election to the Local Board as representative of the Rayana thana, in the Burdwan district, means that people have not been able to realize the nature or usefulness of these institutions.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
Nov. 1st, 1892.



HITAVADI,  
Nov. 3rd, 1892.

25. The *Hitavadi*, of the 3rd November, draws attention to the wretched condition of the third class hackney carriages in Calcutta, and complains that, in spite of the law, the drivers of these carriages refuse to hire them out by the hour. Why this should be so the writer fails to understand.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

SULABH DAINIK,  
Nov. 8th, 1892.

26. The *Sulabh Dainik*, of the 8th November, says that the raiyats of the Khas Mahal Bilballi, in the Basirhat subdivision of the 24-Parganas district, used to acquire the right of fishing in the canal which passes through the estate on payment of a rent. Of late, Government has ceased to farm out the fishing-right, but has issued no notification prohibiting the raiyats from fishing in those waters; the consequence is that poor people coming to fish have their nets laid hold of by Government *Chaprasis* and are themselves maltreated. It is hoped the authorities will take notice of the matter.

(h)—*General.*

SAHACHAR,  
Nov. 2nd, 1892.

27. The *Sahachar*, of the 2nd November, has the following :—  
The Hurdwar enquiry is at an end, and people are anxious to see what decision Sir Auckland Colvin passes on the subject on the eve of his retirement from the country.  
The Hurdwar affair.  
Everything is possible in a country in which the chief of the administration cannot properly control his subordinates. If Lord Lansdowne had been even a third-rate ruler, he would have known that it is wrong to interfere with the religion of a people. There is an image of the Virgin Mary at Lourdes, in France, which is popularly believed to possess miraculous healing powers. The Government of this country would have regarded this as a superstition. But the French Government got a good lesson when it tried to interfere with the Lourdes superstition. If Lord Lansdowne had been a keen-witted man, he would have taken proper steps in the Hurdwar affair the moment he received the first telegram. It is hoped that he has by this time understood the whole thing. We do not wish to embarrass him. The native press has not raised the cry that religion is in danger. All that we want is that the guilty officers should be declared guilty, and that Government will let the people know that such a thing will not occur again. Government's efforts to prevent the spread of cholera in the country and in cantonments are worthy of all praise, but everything should be done in due measure and proportion, for it is not wisdom to burn the quilt in order to destroy the bug that is lodged in it? Was it well done not to allow the people to stay more one day to finish all their religious rites? Would the grim goddess of cholera have grown furious if houses had not been set on fire, cooking-pots had not been broken, cooked rice had not been trodden upon, and husbands and wives, parents and children had not been torn from one another, and suffered to depart in peace and with all their things? That was extremely bad. The people are ready to suffer. They know that things would not have proceeded so far if Lord Lansdowne had been a sensible man. Sir Auckland Colvin has become a bitter enemy of the Hindus. With the old civilians it is high statesmanship to make the Hindus feel the power of the Government. Still we are ready to admit that Sir Auckland did not see that things would be carried so far; and, under the influence of his old idea of being kind to his subordinates, he has tried to screen the officers who went beyond their limits. We say that such oppression was never committed even in the worst days of Mussulman rule. Even Aurungzebe would have punished the perpetrators of such oppression. The English governors claim a higher place than the Hindu and Mussulman rulers. Without disputing this right, we may here observe that things like those that were done at Hurdwar are opposed to the admirable principle of religious neutrality which has been up to this time followed by the English Government. Public health is a good thing. But we prefer religion to health. For what is life without religion? We know that the English think otherwise, but they are bound to respect our religious feelings. Large crowds assemble at reviews of troops, but Government does not drive away the troops if cholera breaks out on such occasions. Things like those done at Hurdwar



should never be repeated. We hope that all the papers relating to the matter will be published.

28. In an article headed "Going to be deprived of bread," the *Hitarádi*, of the 3rd November, says that, in his speech to the members of the Northern Bengal Mounted Rifle, the Lieutenant-Governor has said that, when vacancies will occur in future in Government offices, preference will be given to volunteers and their relatives in filling them up. This one sentence in the speech speaks volumes. The Lieutenant Governor also exhorted the merchants to follow his advice, and the merchants will, it is certain, gladly follow it.

HITAVADI,  
Nov. 3rd, 1892.

The natives will thus find no employment either under Government or in mercantile firms, for Government will on no account accede to their prayer to admit them into the ranks of volunteers. Government will see that all foreigners in India get employment either in its own or in mercantile offices, but it will do nothing to provide employment for the natives. Foreigners will thus live at the people's expense, and the people themselves will die of starvation. Is it for this that Providence placed the destinies of India in the hands of Englishmen?

29. The *Sanjivani*, of the 5th November, says that, while officiating for Mr. Westmacott, as Excise Commissioner of Bengal, Mr. Samuells had increased the salary of the Deputy Superintendent of Excise, Puri, from Rs. 50 to Rs. 60 per month, in recognition of his special aptitude for his work. Mr. Westmacott, however, on his return to office, has not only rescinded the order for the increase, but directed the officer to refund the increase which he had drawn for three months. Nobody ever heard of such an order as this, but it is not one to wonder at under Sir Charles Elliott's policy of retrenchment.

SANJIVANI,  
Nov. 5th, 1892.

30. The *Bangavási*, of the 5th November, says that, in forwarding the British Indian Association's memorial to the Government of India on the subject of the Hurdwar affair, Sir Auckland Colvin remarked that the Association was exciting the religious antipathy of the people against the Government by inducing the Hurdwar pilgrims to hold meetings and agitate against the action of Government in breaking up the fair. The authorities of the British Indian Association protested against this view of the North-Western Provinces Government by saying that meetings have nowhere been held at the instance of the Association to discuss the Hurdwar affair, and that, instead of trying to excite popular dissatisfaction against Government, the Association was doing its best to allay popular feeling in the matter. There is no knowing whether this explanation will satisfy the Government or not. But in whatsoever light it is taken by Government, there can be no doubt that this action of Sir Auckland Colvin will have the effect of deterring people from bringing to the notice of Government the wrong-doings of public officers. And is this what the authorities want?

BANGAVASI,  
Nov. 5th, 1892.

### III.—LEGISLATIVE.

31. The *Cháruvartá*, of the 31st October, says that the objections made by Mr. Ward to the proposed coolie regulations are really ridiculous. If Government pays heed to these objections, the misery of the coolies will never be removed, and Government's reputation, that it loves its people, will suffer. It is to be hoped that Government will not only pass the proposed regulations, but see that they are given effect to.

CHARUVARTA,  
Oct. 31st, 1892.

### IV.—NATIVE STATES.

32. The *Sahachar*, of the 2nd November, says that the Anglo-Indian papers hope that Lord Lansdowne will be able to clear the Augean stable of Hyderabad affairs. Yes, it is easy to set oneself up as a lecturer, but who is there to ask the Viceroy how far he has performed his own duties? It is to be hoped, however, that the men who, with their families, plunder the wealth of the Hyderabad State, will be

SAHACHAR,  
Nov. 2nd, 1892.



driven out of it. There will be no order in Hyderabad so long as Asman Jah remains Prime Minister. Lord Lansdowne will do a very good thing if he can put a stop to the oppression of Hindus in that State. But it is to be feared that he will be able to do nothing. Mehdi Hossein and others are Syud Ahmed's men. And Syud Ahmed must be kept in humour or the Congress will gain in strength. It is not to be supposed that the ruler who is himself guided by his Secretaries will be able to make another shake off the yoke of his Ministers.

#### V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

CHARUVARTA,  
Oct. 31st, 1892.

33. A correspondent of the *Charuvarta*, of the 31st October, says that there is great distress in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district. There are wails among the cultivators and the labouring classes. The increased price of rice added to other calamities has brought great suffering among the people. At the last *hat* held at Kagmari, rice sold at Rs. 6 per maund, and as it was not procurable in sufficient quantities even at that price, many intending purchasers had to go away disappointed. In the villages it is difficult for people to get one meal in the day. Many persons get meals at intervals of one or two days. There are many who are living upon the *dhep* of *safra*, *arum*, *kalmi*, and other herbs. The sufferings of the widows defy description.

Children of respectable families are begging alms. The correspondent has heard from a trustworthy source that two families at the village of Karail starved for 24 hours. Who shall say how many other families, in how many other villages, are starving in this way? Loan is not to be had even at a monthly interest of 2 annas per rupee. The Government and the District Board are requested to render prompt help.

CHARUVARTA.

34. Another correspondent of the same paper complains of terrible scarcity in the Nasirujial pargana, and at the village Taljanga Char, Talganga, Bashati, Tamni, and other villages, within the jurisdiction of the Badla outpost in the Mymensingh district. Rice is selling at Rs. 8 or Rs. 10 per maund and it is not always procurable even at that price. If the Collector of Mymensingh does not come forward to the help of the distressed, many will die.

SANJIVANI,  
Nov. 5th, 1892.

35. The *Sanjivani*, of the 5th November, says that Mr. Phillips really deserves the thanks of the public for what he is doing for the distressed people of Mymensingh, but his amla and the Deputies under him are by their apathy defeating in a great measure the success of Mr. Phillips' efforts. When he sends any Deputy with money for distribution among the distressed people, the Deputy generally returns the money, saying that he has seen nobody requiring relief. And the subdivisional officer of Kishorganj does not even now admit the existence of distress within his jurisdiction.

SANJIVANI.

36. The same paper publishes nine letters on the subject of the distress in the Kishorganj and Tangail subdivisions, in Sasanga-Durgapur, as well as at Mahesvarakhal, Rayapur, Thakurkona, and Katihali in the Netrakona subdivision of the Mymensingh district, in which, however, no additional information is given.

SANJIVANI.

37. The same paper has the following:—  
Reports of distress. (1) Rice is selling at from six to seven annas per rupee within the jurisdiction of the Raipura thana in the Dacca district. About two or three thousand poor people are getting a meal of rice after two or three days, living in the interval on boiled *arum* plants. The mahajans are unwilling to lend money.

(2) Great distress prevails in villages within the jurisdiction of the Robini outpost in the Gopiballabhpur thana, in the Midnapore district, owing to the failure of the crops. Most people are living on *arum*, greens, fruits, and roots of trees. There is also great scarcity of drinking water. The District Board and the Government ought to open relief works in the shape of tanks and embankments.



38. A correspondent of the *Prakriti*, of the 5th November, writing from Scarcity at Palang in the Faridpur district. Palang, in the Madaripur subdivision of the Faridpur district, says that rice is selling at Rs. 4-12 per maund, and paddy at 14 seers per rupee, and the price of rice is rising. People are wailing on all sides. Low-class people cannot get two meals, and many of them even one meal, in the day. Some get meals at intervals of one or two days.

PRAKRITI  
Nov. 5th, 1892.

39. Another correspondent of the same paper, writing from Ujanchar, in Distress at Ujanchar in Tippera. Tippera, says that rice is selling at Rs. 6 or Rs. 7 per maund, and wails are heard everywhere. Nearly half the population get only one meal in the day. The cultivators have lived up to this time by selling the jute which was stored in their houses. They can now find no means of supporting themselves. The mahajans, who have not yet received back the money advanced by them before, refuse to lend more money. Nearly three-fourths of the rice in the locality have been sent away to places where higher prices prevail. This has intensified the distress. Beggars can get no alms. Government is utterly indifferent. The authorities are about to exterminate the people by enhancing the chaukidari tax at this time of scarcity. Even the raiyat who can hardly afford one meal in times of plenty has to pay a chaukidari tax of 12 annas. And even this exorbitant rate has now been enhanced.

PRAKRITI,

40. The *Bangavasi*, of the 5th November, says that a report on the last Government's crop report, &c. *aus* crop in Bengal has been published from the Agricultural Department. The report, while admitting that the year's rainfall has been insufficient, says that there was a good *aus* crop. A good crop without a good rainfall! Everybody knows that, except in Bihār, there has been nowhere more than an eight-anna *aus* crop; and that is the reason why the peasant in every part of the province was so short of rice so early as the month of Asvin. According to the writer of the report, correct information regarding the crops cannot be obtained from the peasantry, and the information which is collected by the inferior officers of Government is not trustworthy. Has he then drawn upon his own imagination for material for his report?

BANGAVASI,  
Nov. 5th, 1892.

41. The same paper says that some people are using the distress in the Mymensingh districts as an occasion for merry-making by dividing themselves into parties for and against Mr. Phillips. In utter disregard of the situation, one of these parties is exhausting its energies in extolling every action of Mr. Phillips, while the other is busy finding fault with him. These people should remember that this is time, not for indulging in idle bickerings, but for straining every nerve to relieve the distressed.

BANGAVASI,

Reports of scarcity and distress.

42. The same paper has the following :—

BANGAVASI.

(1) Great distress prevails in the Noakhali district. The *aus* crop withered for want of rain and the same fate is about to overtake the *aman* crop. Rice is selling at the high price of Rs. 5 per maund, and the number of beggars is increasing every day.

(2) Great distress prevails in the villages of Suryyapur, Alipore, Kemhat, Mallikpur, Bhatpeta, Dhabdhabi, Keyatola, Patgachia, and several others in the Barasat subdivision of the 24-Parganas district. Paddy is selling at eight *palis*, and rice at eight seers, per rupee. Deaths from starvation are taking place. Matilal Karmakar of Goacharan is distributing rice and pice among the poor.

(3) The prospect of the *aman* harvest is very bad in Syampur, within the jurisdiction of the Chandipur thana, in the Howrah district, where rice is selling at from 9 to 10 seers per rupee. People are feeling the pinch of scarcity. One or two deaths have already occurred from starvation. Dr. Abinash Chandra Mukhopadhyaya is doing his best to alleviate distress by distributing rice among the poor.

(4) The prospect of the *aman* crop is very gloomy in Hakamagram, in the Dhubri district in Assam. If rainfall be insufficient, all the standing crops will wither away. Paddy is selling at 15 seers per rupee, and rice at Rs. 5½ to Rs. 5½ per maund. People are feeling the pinch of scarcity.



DACCA PRAKASH,  
Nov. 6th, 1892.

43. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 6th November, says that the man who maintains that there is no famine in the country, when rice is selling at 7 or 8 seers per rupee, cannot be allowed much credit for good sense.

Mr. Jenkins, and the distress in the Dacca district.

It is the very height of folly to suppose that the men, who dwell half-naked in straw huts, and live upon rice procurable at 20 seers per rupee, would be able to buy rice at a price three times as high. It is said that the very name of famine is unpleasant to the Magistrate, Mr. Jenkins. The police and Government servants, generally, as well as those who wish to be nominated members of the District Board, therefore, take good care to avoid that disagreeable topic.

The other day, Mr. Jenkins, in a manner, snubbed Babu Kunjalal Nag, a member of the Dacca District Board, for speaking of famine. The Magistrate said there was no famine, and no false cry of famine should therefore be raised; that he had learnt from Mr. Phillips that the distress had diminished; that it was highly desirable that those who cultivated jute in preference to paddy should get a lesson, and what little distress there was would be at an end as soon as the standing crop was reaped. No other member of the Board ventured to support Kunja Babu after this.

Surely Mr. Jenkins is very much mistaken if he thinks that Government should desist from granting relief in order that growers of jute may be punished for their folly. Of the 24 lakhs of people in the Dacca district, only 411,928 are cultivators. The cultivators of jute must therefore form an insignificant portion of the population, and they are not besides sufferers in the present scarcity, having made good profits by the sale of jute. It is the cultivators of paddy and the remainder of the population that are suffering. Will Government see so many people die before its eyes, solely because it wishes the foolish cultivators of jute to receive the punishment they have deserved? Mr. Phillips has removed the scarcity in Mymensingh at a great cost, and he has therefore the right to say what Mr. Jenkins has not. It behoves Government to relieve the distress, and the more so as it has levied the license tax for creating a famine fund.

SULABH DAINIK,  
Nov. 7th, 1892.

44. The *Sulabh Dainik*, of the 7th November, says that the southern part of the Khulna district, which is remarkable for its abundant harvests, has produced no crop this year, on account of its having been inundated with salt water. There is great distress at Baksha, Hawalkhali, Kagdanga, Bhaduli and other places in the Kaliganj thána. The people there hardly get one small meal at intervals of one or two days. If the Local Board undertakes the construction of a road, many poor people may be able to live by working. But the Local Board is conducting itself in such a way that no good work is to be expected of it.

Distress in the Khulna district.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SAHACHAR,  
Nov. 2nd, 1892.

45. The *Sahachar*, of the 2nd November, says that no ruler can govern successfully in these days who does not respect public opinion. Sir Charles Elliott is conducting himself like a Nawab. But the time will come when he will have retired, and he will then reflect with sorrow on his present conduct. He, as well as other Governors, see clearly what the people want. It is in politics as in trade. People do not ask for increased rights so long as they do not feel their want. One will have done much to clear up one's ideas on the subject if he only calmly asks himself—"How is it that the Indian people who did not ask for increased rights before are asking for them now?" But alas! The thirst for power is even more deadly than the thirst for liquor or *ganja*. History gives the clear warning that no system of Government should be adopted which does not meet with the approval of the people. Both the natives and the Anglo-Indians, and their respective newspapers, say that the old good-feeling between the officials and the people no longer exists, and Government itself admits this indirectly. Ought not this state of things to cease? The officials should make it their constant study to re-establish their former relations with the people. And the people, too, should, on their part, make a similar effort. As a matter of fact, they do make such efforts. But how will they dare approach the

The officials and the people.



officials if the impression gains ground in their minds that, if they make any complaint or representation to the authorities, they will be punished with imprisonment, as Kuar Sing, sweetmeat seller in Hurdwar has been? Government is directing the Magistrates to make frequent tours in the mu'assal. But of what use will these tours be if, after what has taken place at Hurdwar, people take good care to seal their lips in the presence of the authorities? This is a really lamentable state of things. This Indian empire was not founded and consolidated by men without sympathy with the people. A successful administration depends very much on the management of the people's temper. A mechanical administration is a thing which is impossible in its nature, and government by force is not worth the name. Justice, kindness, and sympathy form the corner-stone of an empire, and these should be maintained with the utmost care.

46. The same paper has the following:—

Direct Government of India by the Queen.

Examine every officer from the Viceroy to an Assistant Magistrate, and you will find that they are all, with a few brutal exceptions, gentle and amiable in disposition, mindful of their duties, and sincerely desirous of the people's welfare. But, in spite of this, the people of this country have been for some time past living in a state of uneasiness, as if not knowing who their real ruler is, who is responsible for the administration of the country, and from whom they may expect a redress of their grievances. Only the other day two Magistrates in the North-Western Provinces showed that a man may be punished with imprisonment if he prays for protection. The present Viceroy is a fine gentleman. He has not probably in all his life done harm to a single individual. But under no Viceroy, after Lord Dalhousie, have so many political blunders been made and such suffering of the people witnessed within so short a space of time. We cannot recall to mind that Lord Lansdowne has passed orders for redress upon a single petition complaining of oppression. The officials who say that the great body of people in this country are content if they get only a good harvest have never learnt to take large views of things. Is it a fact that political agitation in the country is confined to a "microscopic minority." Are not the people of Assam agitated over the enhancement of their land revenue and the destruction of their old rights? And do the villagers of Bengal say nothing against Sir Charles Elliott's Chaukidari Act? And is there no agitation against the inordinate expenditure of money upon frontier defences?

There is no one responsible for the administration of India. The control of Parliament is nominal. The Secretary of State, who is generally an English statesman, profoundly ignorant of Indian affairs, is the authority who rules India. But the virtual administration of India lies in the hands of a few retired narrow-minded Indian civilians. These men view with displeasure the course that things are taking in India. The policy they are adopting is the policy of Napoleon III, with an alloy of German and Russian despotism. But English citizens with English education cannot approve of such a system of Government. If political considerations require the establishment in India of a despotic form of Government, let there be some one who shall be responsible for the administration. In our opinion, the Queen herself should govern India with the help of a Minister and the Privy Council. Parliamentary interference is not wanted, as it is of no practical good. Let the Queen govern India directly, and let a member of the Royal Family be appointed as a long-term Governor-General. The important result of this will be that the Governor-General will come to feel affection for the people. The present cast-iron system of administration by Viceroys appointed for terms of five years is devoid of every element of sympathy with the people. We know that the Queen loves us, and her name will, in our opinion, be worth a legion. If she exercises unlimited power, the people of the country will be satisfied, and they will know where to look for redress. The Sovereign's affection for the people is the very corner-stone of a Government, and it is this affection which is being destroyed by the present system of Government. If despotism is considered desirable, let the Queen herself, who is the mistress of the empire, exercise it. People will feel no misgivings about her actions, and there will not be constant changes as at present. She will feel for the people, and the people, too, will be

SAHACHAR,  
Nov. 2nd, 1892.



SUDHAKAR,  
Nov. 4th, 1892.

able to approach her without fear of being put into jail for so doing. If a member of the Royal Family is appointed Viceroy, the services of 34,000 European soldiers may be safely dispensed with. People will not much mind the mistakes of such a Viceroy.

47. The *Sudhakar*, of the 4th November, says that it is the duty of Government to see that Mahomedan *wuqf* properties are properly managed, as they are properties

*Wuqf* property.

devoted to charitable purposes. The writer cannot but notice with disapproval the late decisions of the High Court and the Privy Council in certain matters relating to *wuqf* property. The effect of these decisions will be that all *wuqf* properties in Bengal will, in consequence of mismanagement by *matwallis*, fall in a short time into the clutches of Hindu money-lenders.

BANGAVASI,  
Nov. 5th, 1892.

48. The *Bangavasi*, of the 5th November, says that there is no official record of famine in the Mymensingh district for the last century or more, and it is, therefore, all the more necessary to enquire into the causes of the

Cause of the distress in the Mymensingh district.

present distress in that district.

The Mymensingh district abounds in rich paddy lands, so much so that the people of Mymensingh had never occasion to import rice, but had always a large surplus of rice to send to other places in the country under the name of the "*purvi* rice." What therefore may be the reason of such a rich district being suddenly compelled this year to look to Calcutta, Dacca, and other rice markets for its very subsistence? The reason is clear enough. The day that the Lieutenant-Governor on his return from his Mymensingh tour described the condition of the Mymensingh peasant as one of great prosperity, because he found him using English umbrellas and his wife wearing brass ornaments, the writer gave expression to his fear that the prosperous condition of the Mymensingh peasant had begun to be slowly undermined; that the canker was rapidly at work within, leaving external beauty unimpaired, and that the day was not far distant when the final crash must come and let the peasant himself and the world in general see what his real condition has been. And the anticipated crisis has now arrived.

The distress of the Mymensingh raiyat is due entirely to British commerce and to his own increased love of money. Rice getting dearer every day, and facilities for trade having vastly increased, the raiyat has now greater temptation than before to convert all his stock of paddy into money; and, with innumerable articles of luxury and comfort before him, he is under greater temptation than before to spend all his money in the purchase of frivolous tinsel, hoping, at the same time, that every year will bring with it its own means of livelihood and all its luxuries. It is this love of money and luxury which has induced the Mymensingh raiyat to give up much of his paddy cultivation and sow jute in its stead, as the more paying thing of the two. In fact, all the best lands in the Mymensingh district have now been brought under jute cultivation.

#### URIYA PAPERS.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD  
Oct. 12th, 1892

SAMVAD VAHIKA,  
Oct. 12th, 1892.

UTKAL DIPIKA,  
Oct. 15th, 1892.

UTKAL DIPIKA,  
Oct. 15th, 1892.

SAMVADVAHIKA,  
Oct. 13th, 1892.

49. The *Uriya and Navasamvad*, of the 12th October, and the *Samvad Vahika*, of the 13th October, and the *Utkal Dipika*, of the 15th October, report that the crops are in danger on account of the untimely cessation of the rains.

The crops in Orissa.

50. The same papers notice with regret the untimely and sudden death of Mr. Reily, late Settlement Officer of Orissa, and request the Government to appoint an experienced and well-qualified officer in his place. The *Samvad Vahika*, of the 13th October, suggests that Rai Nanda Kisore, Bahadur, or, if his services are not available, Mr. Wylly, the late Manager of Mohurbhunj, may be appointed in his place.

The office of the Settlement Officer of Orissa.

51. The *Uriya and Navasamvad*, of the 12th October, points out that the labouring classes of the Balasore district are in great distress on account of want of demand for their labour.

Distress in the Balasore district.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD,  
Oct. 12th, 1892



52. The *Samvad Váhika*, of the 13th October, suggests that, as the Chaukidari Amendment Act is calculated to better the condition of the chaukidars, attempts should be made by the authorities to appoint men of respectable extraction to the posts in future.

SAMVADVAHIKA  
Oct. 13th, 1892.

53. All the native papers speak highly of the services of Mr. Cornish, the Collector of Balasore, and his friends in connection with relief operations conducted by them in Kamarda, the northern portion of the Balasore district, where the loss of crops has reduced the poorer classes to a lamentable state of beggary and starvation.

54. The same paper strongly recommends the manufacture of *panga* salt in the Balasore district to the notice of Government, and observes that the manufacture, if revived, will give life and subsistence to a large number of men on the sea-coast.

SAMVADVAHIKA.

55. The *Utkal Dípiká*, of the 15th October, points out that the Government should give more time for the consideration of the provisions of the Municipal Amendment Bill by the public.

UTKAL DÍPIKA,  
Oct. 15th, 1892.

#### ASSAM PAPERS.

56. Referring to the distress which is prevailing in Sylhet, the *Paridarshak*, of the 1st November, calls upon the authorities to see that rice is not exported from that place to relieve distress in Dacca and Mymensingh. In Sylhet rice is selling at from 4 to 4½ seers per rupee. The outlook is very gloomy.

PARIDARSHAK,  
Nov. 1st, 1892.

57. The same paper says that a land revenue, enhanced, as proposed by the Assam Government, will prove too heavy a burden for the raiyats of the province, who have already too many taxes to pay.

PARIDARSHAK.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 12th November 1892.



